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FOR IBS VOA NEWS COVERAGE DESK ATTENTION AFRICAN DIVISION

PASS IPS AFRICA BRANCH.

YAOUNDE--"POUSSE-POUSSE", CAMEROON'S FIRST FEATURE LENGTH FILM, WAS PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC IN YAOUNDE AND DOUALA RECENTLY BY DANIEL KAMWA, CINEMATOGRAPHER AND ACTOR, WHO ALSO DIRECTED AND STARRED IN THE FILM. THE FILM PRESENTS A YOUNG MAN WHO EARNS HIS LIVING PUSHING MERCHANDISE THROUGH THE MARKET PLACE ON A SMALL WHEELED CART (HE IS THE "PUSH-PUSH" OR "POUSSE-POUSSE") AND WHO PREFERS TO SPEND HIS HARD-EARNED MONEY ON A MOTOR-POWERED CART INSTEAD OF PAYING THE DOT (BRIDE PRICE) TO HIS FUTURE FATHER-IN-LAW AS CUSTOM DICTATES. THE CLASSIC STUDY OF TRADITIONAL AND MODERN VALUES HAS DRAWN SRO CROWDS IN CAMEROON AND WILL BE SHOWN IN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND FRANCE IN OCTOBER. KAMWA, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH DAILY CAMEROON TRIBUNE, REFERRED TO THE FILM AS "SOCIO-CULTURAL IN NATURE". "WE CAN SEE IN THE FILM HOW THE CUSTOM OF THE DOT CAN SERVE AS A POINT OF ALIENATION BETWEEN THE TWO GENERATIONS. SOME PARENTS CONSIDER THE AMOUNT OF MONEY A YOUNG MAN CAN GIVE THEM THE SOLE DETERMINING FACTOR IN CHOOSING A HUSBAND FOR THEIR DAUGHTERS. OBVIOUSLY THE THEME IS ALSO SOCIO-ECONOMIC." A CRITIC WRITING IN THE TRIBUNE CONGRATULATED KAMWA FOR PRODUCING A FILM SO RELEVANT TO INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR. "THE FILM SHOWS CAMEROONIAN WOMEN REFUSING TO BE 'SOLD LIKE GOATS' AS THEY ATTEMPT TO MARRY FOR LOVE AND NOT FOR MONEY".

MR. KAMWA FEELS THAT HIS FILM CAN BE APPRECIATED BY BOTH AFRICAN
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AND EUROPEAN AUDIENCES. "IF PEOPLE OUTSIDE OF AFRICA CAN HAVE A

POSITIVE VIEW OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE, I FEEL THAT I AM FULFILLING MY ROLE AS AN AFRICAN FILMMAKER. IT IS NECESSARY TO PROGRESSIVELY RECTIFY THE DISTORTED IMAGE THAT WHITES HAVE ALWAYS PRESENTED IN THEIR FILMS ABOUT BLACKS".

"POUSSE-POUSSE" IS MR. KAMWA'S SECOND FILM. THE FIRST WAS BASED ON A SHORT STORY WRITTEN BY CAMEROON'S WELL-KNOWN WRITER FRANCIS BEBEY AND TREATED THE THEME OF CULTURAL ALIENATION. MR. KAMWA IS PLANNING A NEW FILM WHICH WILL CONCENTRATE ON THE CULTURE OF NORTH CAMEROON.

"POUSSE-POUSSE" WHICH RECEIVED FINANCIAL BACKING FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CAMEROON IS DESTINED FOR THE "BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL" TO BE HELD IN LAGOS. IT HAS ALREADY WON A PRIZE FOR THE BEST SCENARIO AT A FESTIVAL SPONSORED BY 'L'AGENCE FRANCOPHONE DE COOPERATION CULTURELLE ET TECHNIQUE' HELD LAST YEAR IN CANADA. AND, IN THE WORDS OF THE TRIBUNE, THE FILM WILL ACT AS AN "AMBASSADOR OF CAMEROONIAN CULTURE" WHEREVER IT IS SHOWN IN THE WORLD. IN ADDITION TO KAMWA, THE ALL-AFRICAN CAST STARS MARTHE NDOME EWANE, MADELEINE HAPPY AND MARCEL MVONDO II. ITEM.
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